



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 144

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1998

No. 62

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 1998, at 12 noon.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1998

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for this moment of prayer in which we can affirm our unity. Thank You for giving us the same calling: to express our love for You by faithful service to our country. So much of our time is spent debating our differences that we often forget the bond of unity that binds us together. We are one in our belief in You, the ultimate and only Sovereign of this Nation. You are the magnetic and majestic Lord. You enable us to work together.

Take charge of the control centers of our minds. Think Your thoughts through us. Take charge of our tongues so that we may speak truth with clarity, without rancor and anger. May our debates be an effort to reach agreement rather than simply to win an argument. Help us to think of each other as fellow Americans seeking Your best for our Nation.

Enable us to catch the drumbeat of Your direction and march to the cadence of Your guidance. Here are our lives. Invade them with Your calming Spirit, strengthen them with Your powerful presence, and imbue them with Your gift of faith to trust You to bring unity out of diversity. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. ALLARD. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon. As a reminder, the majority leader has announced there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. A cloture motion was filed yesterday on the motion to proceed to the tobacco legislation and that vote will occur on Monday at a time to be determined by the two leaders, but not prior to 5 p.m.

Also at noon on Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of Senate bill 1723, the Abraham immigration legislation, under the consent agreement of May 13. Therefore, Members can expect a rollcall vote on cloture and additional votes with respect to the immigration legislation Monday evening.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 1998

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 1605) to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1605) entitled "An Act to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers", do pass with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds that—

(1) the number of law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty would significantly decrease if every law enforcement officer in the United States had the protection of an armor vest;

(2) according to studies, between 1985 and 1994, 709 law enforcement officers in the United States were feloniously killed in the line of duty;

(3) the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that the risk of fatality to law enforcement officers while not wearing an armor vest is 14 times higher than for officers wearing an armor vest;

(4) the Department of Justice estimates that approximately 150,000 State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers, nearly 25 percent, are not issued body armor;

(5) according to studies, between 1985 and 1994, bullet-resistant materials helped save the lives of more than 2,000 law enforcement officers in the United States; and

(6) the Executive Committee for Indian Country Law Enforcement Improvements reports that violent crime in Indian country has risen sharply, despite a decrease in the national crime rate, and has concluded that there is a "public safety crisis in Indian country".

(b) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of this Act is to save lives of law enforcement officers by helping State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies provide officers with armor vests.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S4927